

Dear friends of the Office of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN),

Once again, I you this information that highlights a part of the networks of the Congolese mafia

I would like to point out that the names of the persons mentioned in this inquiry are on the list of persons to be monitored that we communicated to you during our meeting in your offices in Washington, DC

**The question that everyone asks is this :** *When we know that Denis Sssou Nguesso and his members of his clan systematically divert any amount of money that goes into the coffers of the State, how to understand that Mrs. Christine Lagarde and The IMF are always ready to give them financial aid, an aid whose destination is already known?*

## INVESTIGATION

### ***Palace in Venice and villa in Portugal: it is good to be finance minister in Brazzaville***

Judicial documents reveal the magnitude of the sumptuous gifts that the Brazilian group Asperbras offered to Gilbert Ondongo, minister of Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

***By Marc Guéniat***

***THE WORLD Le 02.12.2016 à 10h52***



Operation Rota do Atlantico, the Portuguese equivalent of the affair of ill-gotten goods, continues to bring down heads. After the businessman José Veiga, the long-time Portuguese "Mr Africa" based in Brazzaville, and a dozen other suspects, it is the turn of José Roberto Colnaghi, president of the Brazilian company Asperbras, to be charged in Lisbon of "corruption" and "money laundering". Since Thursday 24 November, the group is decapitated because of the very lucrative contracts that Mr. Colnaghi signed in the Republic of Congo.

And, above all, the Congolese Minister of Finance, Gilbert Ondongo, appears as one of the great recipients of the generosity of the Brazilian firm. According to information gathered by the Portuguese authorities, Mr. Ondongo, now Minister of the Congolese economy, bought an apartment Avenida da Liberdade, the most opulent of Lisbon, just above shops Cartier and

Porsche. This is due in particular to a € 347,000 transfer in August 2015 from a Congolese company controlled by José Veiga, the representative in the Congo of Asperbras. At the same time, according to Portuguese judicial documents that Le Monde was able to consult, the Brazilian group also made available to the minister a residence in the chic seaside resort of Cascais, known as the "minister's house". The Portuguese police found 3 million euros and 4.35 million dollars (4 million euros) in cash during a search in February 2016.

### **Contract of more than one billion dollars**

At the same time, Mr. Ondongo also benefited from an all-expenses paid stay in a fourteenth-century Venetian palace, Hotel Danieli, between August 24 and 30, 2015. The suite he occupied was billed 5 000 euros per night. Or at the Lisbon Ritz from January 13 to 15, 2016. These and other expenses were paid through a Visa card without credit limit on behalf of the brother of an Asperbras employee.

Contacted, Mr. Ondongo's entourage, referring to cash, considered it "fanciful to imagine that these funds, found in a place not belonging to him, have any link with the minister" While refusing to comment on the other findings of the Portuguese authorities. Adding that "the most important procurement procedure does not give a preponderant role to the Minister of Finance". As for the government, he indicated through his communication minister, Thierry MOUNGALLA, not to comment on "possible ongoing proceedings" and said he had "not received any request for mutual legal assistance".

However, the Portuguese courts are working on the assumption that these largesses paid for the signing of a series of contracts concluded between Asperbras and the Congolese state. Contracts surprising in size and amount: more than a billion dollars - 8% of Congolese GDP. How did Brazzaville honor the invoices of the Brazilian company? By drawing in particular from the money that the Swiss oil trader Gunvor lent, with BNP Paribas, to the National Oil Company Congolese (SNPC): 750 million dollars between 2011 and 2012, in exchange for cargoes of crude. Commissions backed by this contract between Gunvor and SNPC are the subject of criminal proceedings for "money laundering" investigated in Switzerland since the end of 2011 by the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office.

Or Asperbras paid commissions to the same intermediaries as Gunvor, a Gabonese and a Frenchman both holding, through companies domiciled respectively in Belize and Malta, accounts in Switzerland. The Swiss authorities sent a request for mutual legal assistance in Lisbon in the summer of 2014. This seemingly routine approach was going to trigger a real scandal in Portugal, with the opening of the "Atlantic Route" investigation, so named because of the incessant round-trips between Portugal and Congo carried out by the Jets of Asperbras.

### **Considerable margin**

By 2012, Asperbras is starting to erect the industrial zone of Maloukou, near Brazzaville, wanted by President Denis Sassou-Nguesso and valued at nearly 500 million euros. The group, initially specialized in PVC pipes and fittings, is also entrusted with the construction of twelve hospitals, a map of the country's mining potential and hydrological drilling for amounts significantly higher than construction work. Similar activities carried out in Chad and Cameroon, according to Le Canard enchaîné of 4 June 2014. Missions so distant from its original expertise that Asperbras subcontracts a small part of it to the Bureau of Geological and Mining Research (BRGM), French public law.

Solicited by Le Monde, BRGM asserts that topographical and spatial differences justify the extra cost in relation to Chad and Cameroon, but recognizes that the amount he has received is "out of all proportion" to that which Asperbras himself cashed in Brazzaville, realizing in passing a considerable margin. Christian BRUX, deputy director at BRGM, added that in view of the current Portuguese procedure, his company would "think" before binding again with Asperbras. At the time of the signing of the contract in August 2013, BRGM claims to have taken certain "precautions" to ensure the solvency of its partner, but without being interested in the conditions of obtaining the contract, in a country nevertheless ranked 21 More corrupt in the world, according to Transparency International.

In the Congo, José Veiga was in command for Asperbras. It is today at the center of the investigation carried out in Portugal. Arrested on 3 February and released on bail, Veiga was charged with "corruption, money laundering and tax evasion". Like his associate Paulo Santana Lopes, brother of a former Portuguese prime minister, a lawyer and the finance director of the group, Mauricio Caldeira, arrested in Argentina.

### **Sophisticated offshore companies**

Through a sophisticated network of offshore companies, most of the suspect funds went through the International Bank of Cape Verde, of which José Veiga was by far the main customer. The former agent of football players even tried to buy it back for 13.75 million euros to the Banco Espirito Santo group (now Banco Novo in 2014 due to its fraudulent bankruptcy), but this transaction has been vetoed by the Bank Of Portugal. In a sound recording of the Banco Espirito Santo Superior Council held at the end of January 2014, Banco Espirito Santo leaders regard José Veiga as the "manager" of Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The Portuguese businessman also appeared alongside two children of the president, Denis-Christel Sassou-Nguesso, in charge of state oil sales, as well as Claudia Sassou-Nguesso, communications adviser to the presidency . Neither José Veiga nor his lawyer wanted to answer the questions of the World.

The contracts with the Congo have allowed the leaders of Asperbras to lead the way. While José Veiga was able to diversify its activities, invest in real estate and afford several luxury cars, in March 2012, José Roberto Colnaghi and his brother acquired two plots on the very upscale Star Island in Miami. \$ 17 million. The company also owns two Bombardier private jets, one Challenger 605 and one Global Express 6000.

Before entering the Congo, Asperbras existed only in the shadow of the Brazilian giants of the BTP, like Odebrecht. In fact, Mr. Colnaghi was able to establish close ties with Presidents Lula and Rousseff, notably through Antonio Palocci, several times minister and, most importantly, treasurer of their respective electoral campaigns in 2002 and 2010. A report from the Senate Brazilian president of 2006 mentions a possible illegal financing of the Workers' Party through the intermediary of the two men. Using his influence, Mr. Palocci also obtained from Brasilia the cancellation of the Congolese public debt. And this in order to open the doors of the country to Brazilian companies, like Asperbras.

Learn more about [http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2016/12/02/palace-a-venise-et-villa-au-portugal-il-fait-bon-etre-ministre-des-finance-a-brazzaville\\_5042096\\_3212.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2016/12/02/palace-a-venise-et-villa-au-portugal-il-fait-bon-etre-ministre-des-finance-a-brazzaville_5042096_3212.html) #V7UQDEF6cLjBWTiU.99

[http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2016/12/02/palace-a-venise-et-villa-au-portugal-il-fait-bon-etre-ministre-des-finance-a-brazzaville\\_5042096\\_3212.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2016/12/02/palace-a-venise-et-villa-au-portugal-il-fait-bon-etre-ministre-des-finance-a-brazzaville_5042096_3212.html)

## INVESTIGATION

**In Brazzaville, reward the son Sassou-Nguesso to obtain from the father of the mining permits**

Documents consulted by "Monde Afrique" involve Denis-Christel Sassou-Nguesso in a corruption case with the Australian Sundance.

*By Emmanuel Freudenthal (Nairobi)*

*THE WORLD On 25.08.2016 at 08:55*



On July 19, 2006, in a pretty villa in Brazzaville, Denis-Christel Sassou-Nguesso, the youngest son of the President of the Congo, showed a certain appetite. He lunched with representatives of an Australian mining company, Sundance Resources, who presented him with the Mbalam-

Nabeba project: an iron mine in the wooded hills of western Congo, straddling the border with Cameroon.

Studies are done, investors are ready. All that is required is mining licenses, first exploration and exploitation, for which the green light must come from President Denis Sassou-Nguesso himself. This signature of the Head of State, who cumulates more than thirty-two years at the head of the country, is the key to the chest containing Congo's natural resources. And the son of the president seems determined to cash it.

### **A good deal**

Denis-Christel is known for his ostentatious lifestyle and luxury tastes, with his Porsche Cayenne or Bentley coupe sports cars, As well as frequent visits to Christian Dior, Christian Lacroix or Louis Vuitton in the beautiful districts of Paris. And while in his country half of the population lives below the poverty line, according to the World Bank, despite the natural wealth - oil, minerals and wood in particular.

At table with his guests, Denis-Christel reflected. It knows itself in a position of strength because two foreign companies are already competing, which obtained non-exclusive permits to prospect in the zone coveted by Sundance. Without louching, he asks for an interest in the project presented to him, more important than originally planned.

After this stay in Brazzaville representatives of Sundance, two of which are Cameroonian, an internal fax of the Australian company suggests the creation of a company in the Congo of which 30% of the capital would be in the hands of «local shareholders, it is Denis [-Christel] and Rodrigue Nguesso », the latter being the nephew of the president. The signatory of the fax, a certain David Porter, seems to suggest that the 70% -30% distribution is a good deal: "These people ... who are related to the president, have made deals 50-50 with Foreign oil companies," he wrote.

In November 2006, Congo Iron was created and hastened to apply for exclusive mining permits near Nabeba.

Joined by the Monde Afrique, Denis-Christel Sassou-Nguesso says he has nothing to do with Sundance. "I do not know who they are," he said of the Australian company. "But they told you they knew me?" " Yes. "I do not think they told you they know me. "The son of the Congolese president, nicknamed" Kiki the oil tanker "in his country, refused to answer other questions and hung up dry, concluding:" It is rather to them you must address yourself. "

### **"Kiki the oilman" "The tanker"**

The surprise of "Kiki" to see his name appear in the Mbalam-Nabeba mining project is undoubtedly linked to the unusual way this matter is being publicized.

David Porter, aged 67, a trained geologist, is an old Australian truck driver in the mining world, in his country and in Africa. He initiated the Mbalam-Nabeba project in 2005 and then coordinated the negotiations with the Sassou-Nguesso.

It was Porter himself who unwittingly revealed the compromising dealings of the company. In conflict with his former employer, who refuses to pay him some of his fees, he sued Sundance in two trials in 2007 and 2013. To justify all the work he has done, he lodges in the Perth Stacks of confidential documents, faxes and emails, without suspecting that their content would create a scandal.

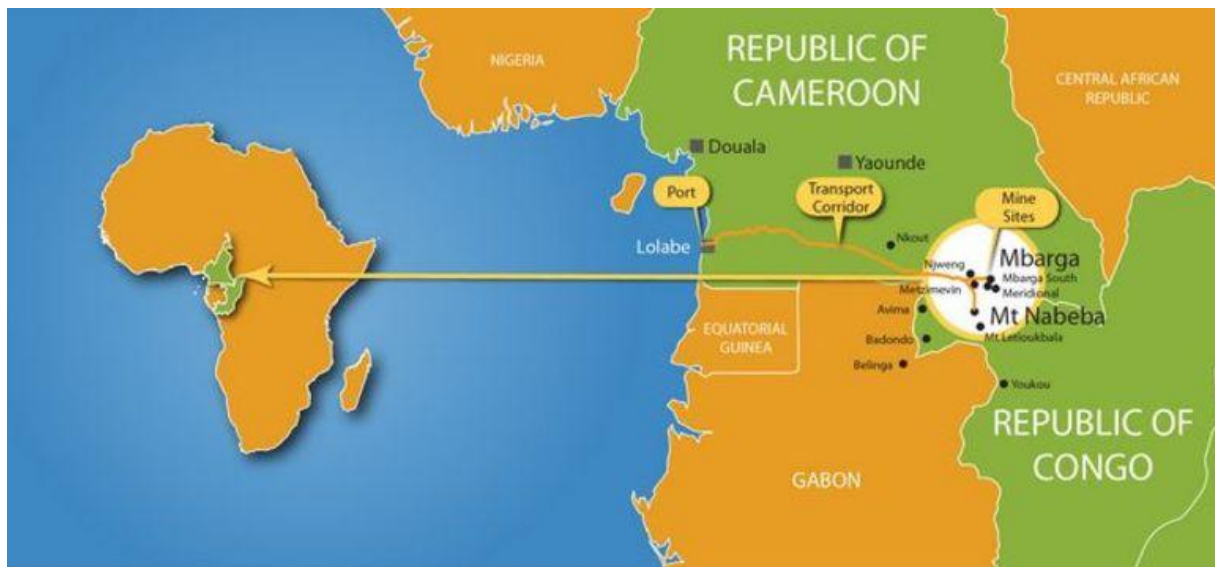
These documents, which World Africa was able to consult, are explicit. In his written testimony, Porter tells how, during a visit to Cameroon in June 2006, he proposes to the chairman of the board of directors of Sundance, John Corr, to send to Brazzaville one of his acquaintances, Olivier Fabrice Sil, Lawyer, an employee of Standard Chartered Bank, "who went to university with the son of the President of the Congo". Fabrice Sil obtained a master's degree in business law from the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin and then worked in several banks. Porter details his plan: "Potential local partners would be the son of the president and other members of his family or close associates and they would expect a share of 30% of the capital. "

## "On their behalf"

In most cases of corruption, the top executives of the companies involved convinced the investigators that they were unaware of the commissions and bribes decided at lower levels. Not this time. The documents filed in the Perth Court show that several Sundance board members at the time were aware of Sassou-Nguesso's involvement in the project, including Alec Pismiris and John Corr. Joined by World Africa.

At a meeting on December 1, 2006, the Sundance Board of Directors decided to buy back part of the Congolese shares in Congo Iron to reduce its stake to 10%. A month later, Fabrice Sil announced to Sundance colleagues, including the CEO, that Rodrigue and Denis-Christel Sassou-Nguesso are finally ready to sell the shares he "holds on their behalf" in Congo Iron.

A copy of this email was filed in court by Porter himself. Yet, contacted by telephone, he said he did not know the identity of Congolese shareholders of Congo Iron, while Fabrice Sil categorically denied that the family of President Sassou-Nguesso was involved.



In Perth, on the morning of March 8, 2007, Sundance's board of directors in its glass skyscraper facing the Indian Ocean decides that "the Congolese party" will receive 15 million Sundance shares in exchange for the 20 % Of Congo Iron that the Sassou-Nguesso agreed to sell, but with the condition "the issuance of exclusive research permits".

In July 2007, the coveted research permits were signed by President Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

## Default of payment

A year later, on October 10, 2008, Sundance officially announces on the Australian Stock Exchange that it will increase its stake in Congo Iron to 85% and, for this purpose, it will allocate, in three tranches, 33 million Sundance shares To a screen company registered in Congo, Congo Mining Investments SA (ComInvest), "represented" by Fabrice Sil, but without specifying who the shareholders are. This transaction will have a total value of 9.6 million euros.

In 2012, two months after payment of the last tranche of shares, President Sassou-Nguesso signs an operating license that gives Sundance an exclusive right to extract iron from the Nabebe hills.

Sundance's board of directors has been fully renewed since the 2006 and 2007 rulings, and none of its current members have been involved in negotiations with the Sassou-Nguesso. In addition, the fall in commodity prices from 2011 brought Sundance with it, putting the company today in

great difficulty. Contacted by email, Sundance management announced that it has launched an internal investigation.

David Porter won his second trial on his fees. Sundance was sentenced in December 2015 to pay her more than 3 million euros. But he may never get the money, partly because Sundance is currently in default, and partly because the Australian justice system could open an investigation on the basis of its corruption revelations. Australia sanctions corruption abroad with sentences of up to 10 years in prison and a heavy fine.

*This survey was carried out in collaboration with the Australian press group Fairfax.*

Read in the LETTER FROM THE CONTINENT - AA025841 of this Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Nephew of Denis Sassou Nguesso, Rodrigue Nguesso has just acquired, for \$ 2.45 million, a villa of 353 m2 in Miami, in the United States. This Spanish-style property has five bedrooms, a jacuzzi and a private pool! Previously, the owner of A & E Transatlantic lived in a Miami Beach property, located at 4775 Collins Avenue, which he sold at \$ 1.5 million in early October. The two rooms of this property, of which 142 m2 of floor were in marble, enjoyed an impregnable view on the beach. What else?

Read in the LETTER FROM THE CONTINENT - AA025841 of this Wednesday, November 30, 2016

He is the son of Maurice Nguesso, the elder brother of the bloodthirsty and corrupt congolese dictator denis Sassou Nguesso. His name is on the list of people to watch out for.

See attached list to: xxii. "Rodrigue Aymar NGUESSO"